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(b) if so, at what stage it is; and

(c) at which place it is to touch the Villupuram-Trichinopoly chord line?

A.—(a) Yes, as a link in the project known as the Salem-Namakkal-Trichinopoly railway.

(b) The project is not among the lines sanctioned by the Railway Board for construction nor, in the present financial position, is there any likelihood of its being taken up in the near future.

(c) At Trichinopoly.

Local Self-Government

Budget of the Peddapur Municipality for 1934–35.

* 689 *Q.*—Mr. C. Indrayya: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have received a copy of the budget of the Peddapur Municipality for 1934–35?

A.—Yes.

Direct recruitment of District Board Engineers to the prejudice of the Assistant Engineers in service.

* 690 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of District Board Engineers are filled up by direct recruitment;

(b) if so, how many such appointments were made since 1st January 1933;

(c) whether it is a fact that persons who were already employed as Assistant Engineers under local boards were not allowed to put in applications for those appointments to try their chances along with others;

(d) whether the persons selected by direct recruitment possess more qualifications than any of the Assistant Engineers who are already in the employ of local boards; and

(e) what the reasons and principles involved are in making such direct recruitments and in not giving chances to the experienced and duly qualified persons in the employ of local boards?

A.—(a) Yes. Admission to the service is by direct recruitment, provided that every alternate vacancy is filled by recruitment from Local Fund Assistant Engineers, so far as qualified and suitable persons of that rank are available.

(b) Three, of whom one has since reverted to his permanent appointment as Local Fund Assistant Engineer, Anantapur.

(c) The fact is not as stated by the hon. Member.

(d) & (e) With reference to the answer to clause (a), the questions do not arise.